

REMARKS

This Response to Restriction Requirement is filed in response to the Office Action mailed March 1, 2004 (herein "Office Action"). Prior to the Office Action, Claims 1-31 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, those claims were subjected to a three-way restriction requirement. In particular, Claims 1-19 were identified as Group I; Claims 20-27 were identified as Group II; and Claims 28-31 were identified as Group III.

In response to the restriction requirements, applicants provisionally elect Group I, Claims 1-19, with traverse. In particular, applicants traverse the separate grouping of Claims 1-19 and Claims 28-31. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the restriction requirement and identify Claims 1-19 and 28-31 as one group.

Claims 1-19 are directed toward "a method of providing a computing device control interface." Included in the computing device control interface of Claim 1 is a "set of graphical icons" representing one or more actions to be executed by a computing device when selected by a user, and a "set of graphical computing device icons" representative of one or more computing devices in a network. Similarly, Claims 28-31 describe a computing device control interface embodied in a computer-readable medium having computer-executable components. Those components, similar to Claim 1, include a component for "creating an action icon corresponding to a number of user-selected actions" and a component for creating a "computing device icon corresponding to a number of servers."

As can be seen from independent Claims 1 and 28, both claim sets are directed toward "providing a computing device control interface," and are both believed to be within the same inventive class. Claims 1-19 are written in the form of a method claim for providing a computing device control interface, whereas Claims 28-31 are written in the form of a computer-readable medium having computer-executable components for providing a computing device

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control interface. Claims 1-19 and Claims 28-31 are directed toward similar inventions crafted in a different claim style. Thus, Claims 1-19 and 28-31 should be treated as one group for examination purposes.

Accordingly, applicants request that the claims identified as Groups I and III (Claims 1-19 and 28-31) be classified as one group and examination be undertaken with respect to those claims. Applicants agree to withdraw the claims of Group II (Claims 20-27).

CONCLUSION

Based on the above, applicants provisionally elect Group I (Claims 1-19), with traverse. Applicants respectfully request that the grouping of the restriction requirement be reclassified and examination of Claims 1-19 and Claims 28-31 be undertaken. If any questions remain, applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

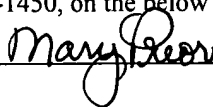
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: April 1, 2004



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